

mated program may be used to identify though groups within a text by applying various linguistic criteria, such as the criteria discussed above.

[0042] Once a text has been broken down into an array 10 of word clusters 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, selected words within a word cluster may be emphasized by altering the typeface, changing the font and/or changing the color of the selected words with respect to the other words of the word cluster. As shown in FIG. 2, the words “embassy” and “bombings” have been emphasized by bolding the selected words.

[0043] Selected words may be emphasized in various ways. The words in the word cluster 12 may be presented in a Times New Roman typeface with a 14 point font, as shown in FIG. 3A. The word “embassy” may then be emphasized by altering the typeface of the word “embassy” with respect to the other word in the word cluster. For example, the word “embassy” may be bolded, as shown in FIGS. 2 and 3B, italicized, as shown in FIG. 3C or underlined, as shown in FIG. 3D. In another aspect, the word “embassy” may be presented in a different typeface, such as, for example, Arial, as shown in FIG. 3E, Century Gothic, as shown in FIG. 3F, Charlesworth, as shown in FIG. 3G, or Batang, as shown in FIG. 3H. In another aspect, the word “embassy” may be presented in a different font size, such as, for example, 18 point font, as shown in FIG. 3I, or 22 point font, as shown in FIG. 3J. In another aspect, selected words may be emphasized by changing the color of the word (e.g., from black to red).

[0044] In another aspect, one or more words of a word cluster may be de-emphasized. For example, a word may be de-emphasized by using a narrower or lighter typeface, a lighter color, a smaller font or the like. For example, a word may be de-emphasized by presenting the de-emphasized word in a Century Gothic typeface, shown in FIG. 3F, while the other words in the word cluster are presented in an Arial typeface, as shown in FIG. 3E.

[0045] Accordingly, by emphasizing one or more words within a word cluster 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, the reader’s eyes are guided to the significant words within the word cluster.

[0046] In one aspect, content words (i.e., substantive words) within a word cluster may be emphasized and function words may be de-emphasized. Function words may be grammatical words that can be distinguished from content words such as nouns, verbs and adjectives. In one aspect, function words may be pronouns, auxiliaries, determiners, prepositions and other items that do not fall within any single syntactic category. In another aspect, function words may be all words that do not normally take stress.

[0047] In another aspect, an author or a speaker may identify words that should be emphasized based on the intent of the author and/or emphasis or de-emphasis placed on words when a particular speaker speaks those words.

[0048] Accordingly, once a text is broken down into an array of word clusters, the content words within each word cluster may be emphasized and, alternatively, one or more function words may be de-emphasized, thereby controlling the reader’s eye movements such that the reader spends less effort focusing on specific words within the text.

[0049] In another aspect of the system and method, a text, generally designated 30, may be arranged into word clusters 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, as shown in FIG. 4 and described above, and the content words in each word cluster may be emphasized, as discussed above. Each word cluster 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 may include a last line 42 and at least one non-last line 44. Word clusters consisting of only one line may be considered to have one last line 42 and no non-last lines 44. In one aspect, the words in the non-last lines 44 may be present in a typeface having a reduced serif, while the words in the last line may be presented with a typeface having a full serif. In another aspect, the words in the non-last lines 44 may be present in a typeface having a normal serif, while the words in the last line may be presented with a typeface having an oversized serif.

[0050] For example, referring to word cluster 32 of FIG. 4, the word “evening” is in the last line 42 and the words “On an” are in the first non-last line 44. The letter “n” in the word “evening” has a larger serif than the letter “n” in the words “On an.”

[0051] Without being limited to any particular theory, it is believed that a reduced serif in non-last lines 44 allows a reader’s eyes to easily scan the contents of the word cluster, while a full (or larger) serif in the last line 42 allows a reader’s eyes to identify the end of the word cluster.

[0052] Although the system and method for displaying text has been shown and described with respect to certain aspects, it should be understood that modifications may occur to those skilled in the art upon reading the specification. The system and method for displaying text includes all such modifications and is limited only by the scope of the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for displaying text comprising the steps of:
 - providing a text;
 - arranging said text into a plurality of word clusters, wherein at least one selected word cluster of said plurality of word clusters includes at least two lines of words and each line of words includes at least two words; and
 - emphasizing at least one word in said selected word cluster.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said emphasizing step includes altering at least one of a typeface, a font and a color of at least one word in said selected word cluster with respect to the other words in said selected word cluster.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein consecutive word clusters of said plurality of word clusters are positioned horizontally across a page.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein consecutive word clusters of said plurality of word clusters are positioned vertically across a page.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein said selected word cluster includes at most six lines of words and each line of words includes at most six words.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein each word cluster of said plurality of word clusters is spaced from the other word clusters of said plurality of word clusters.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein said emphasizing step includes identifying at least one content word in said selected word cluster and emphasizing said content word.